

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Italy

SUBJECT Views of a High-Ranking Soviet Official
in Italy

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SOURCE

The following are purportedly the views of a high-ranking Soviet
official in Italy.

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1. Italy's foreign policy should be in line with her interests. Italy, as well as France, should not become involved in the struggle between the Anglo-Americans and the Soviet Union. The neutrality of Italy and France would considerably lessen American strategic potential so that the United States would not be very anxious to start a war. Italy, on the other hand, has everything to gain from the USSR. It would be possible, for example, for Italy to follow a policy which would strengthen trade relations with the Soviet Union.
2. Italy's attitude with regard to Korea should be neutral. Italy is not a member of the United Nations and as such, is not under any obligation to take part in the Korean conflict. Italy must keep neutral even if she should be permitted to rearm. It would be foolish for Italy to organize an expeditionary force to Korea.
3. The USSR desires to make purchases in Italy and in turn would like, though not demand, that Italy make purchases in the Russian markets.
4. In spite of the war in Korea and other pertinent factors, the United States is making large purchases in the Soviet Union. This is also true of England and some of her Dominions. Only Italy has made no purchases, and is confined to dealing in the dollar and sterling markets.
5. The good services of Italy's Ambassador to Moscow, Manlio Brosio, temporarily strengthened relations between both countries. The Government of the Soviet Union has done much to meet Italy half way and wanted to give evidence of this by having many important Soviet officials attend the last reception which the Italian Ambassador gave in Moscow on the occasion of the anniversary of the Italian Republic.

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